

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante. Mr. Palumbo was absent due to illness. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Scherza, Mr. Votto, Mr. Balducci, Mr. Scaffardi, and Mr. Laliberte.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. It was moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(1) and contract and litigation pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(2).

Mr. Lupino, acting Chair, reconvened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

I. Executive Session Minutes Sealed

Mr. Lupino noted that the committee suspended Executive Session; the committee would be returning to Executive Session after the public session.

II. Minutes of Previous Meetings – October 12, 2005 and October 17, 2005

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Archetto and unanimously carried that the minutes of October 12, 2005 and October 17, 2005 be approved.

III. Public Acknowledgements/Communications

There were none.

IV. Chairperson Communications

There were none.

V. Superintendent Communications

Mrs. Ciarlo reported that she had the privilege of being in Washington, DC this past week to witness the Chester Barrows School receive its Blue Ribbon plaque and recognition which was so well deserved. She asked everyone to keep in mind that this is a national recognition. Out of hundreds of thousands of schools in the United States, they usually select between 200 and not more than 300 schools. Sometimes it averages out to approximately 250 schools, and Chester Barrows was one of those schools of three in Rhode Island. Two years ago Cranston had two out of three in Rhode Island.

This certainly represents a lot of hard work and dedication on the part of the total staff and the principal. The past principal, Craig Jamieson, was unable to attend because of health reasons. She told him that she would see it and bring it back to him. Both Liz Riesenfeld and Cheryl Berube were in the audience, and they attended the ceremonies. They showed the plaque to the committee and public. They thanked the committee for their support. The conference was inspiring, and it was a thrilling experience. The most exciting and rewarding thing for them was seeing the pictures of Chester Barrows students up there where they belong among the best of the best. They indicated that there would be a presentation at Barrows School on Thursday, November 17th, at 1:00 p.m. They invited administration and the School Committee to attend.

VI. School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Stycos stated that he is still missing a few parents on the Wellness Committee. He had not received names from Mr. Archetto, Mr. Traficante, Mr. Lupino and Mr. Palumbo. Mr. Traficante indicated to Mr. Stycos that if he knew someone who would like to serve on the board to utilize his nomination position. Mr. Lupino commented that he has been in contact with some people who have not committed to him. Mr. Stycos remarked that the committee is meeting for the first time on Thursday, November 17th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Park View library.

Mrs. Greifer reported that this month she attended both the CEAB and the Special Education Parent Advisory Board meetings. At the CEAB meeting, Mr. Scherza and Mr. Balducci made a presentation on budget issues. The CEAB meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, and SEPAB meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. If someone from administration wishes to address either of those groups, they would appreciate it.

Mr. Archetto asked for a clarification for the committee and the public. He stated that in the near future the committee would be choosing a new superintendent, and interviews will be conducted. Each member will be asking several questions. He stated that he didn't understand the logic of why the committee has to submit their questions

beforehand. Mr. Lupino responded that this was the reason for having a session last week at which time the committee consented to the meeting schedule and the format for the interviews. Mr. Archetto stated for the record that he served for six years in the General Assembly where they had to choose Supreme Court Justices, and the committee was never asked to submit questions prior to the interview and were never limited as to the amount of questions one member could ask. In both cases, this has been violated. Mr. Lupino responded that the committee doesn't have the luxury of time. They set particular hours and dates. The committee has a very tight schedule. Many of the members have very limited work commitments. The committee has accommodated Mr. Archetto because he is unable to be at meetings on certain nights because he teaches. Mr. Archetto responded that he has never been accommodated on a Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that having sat on the other side of the process very often the committee wants to make sure that they have a very good cross section of questions. By having a good idea what the various members are going to ask, one can see if there is a void in a particular area of importance. Sometimes as a candidate answers a question, it poses another question. She has never known a committee that hasn't felt free to have a follow-up so that what they

ask a response generates a further question in that area, and they would be expected to follow up with that. The flexibility is there to do that.

Mr. Stycos stated that he agreed with Mrs. Ciarlo that he hoped there would be a process that does have the flexibility that the committee does not rush through this. If they have to stay late, then they will stay late. This is one of the most important decisions the committee will make as a committee. If they have unanswered questions, they have to make sure that they are asked at that meeting. Mr. Lupino responded that it would depend on the availability of the candidates. One of the candidates is local; the other two are not. They have been given a time frame as to how long the interviews will take. If someone needs to take a flight or a train home, they may choose to cut it short; but he certainly wouldn't cut it short. He would not impose upon someone who is waiting for an interview and go longer with the first one. They would have to adjourn that and come back if the person was willing to do it. Mrs. Ciarlo commented that if the person has come that far to be interviewed he or she would be willing to stay to answer any and all questions that the committee has to ask.

Mrs. Greifer stated that she served on the committee that interviewed for superintendent the last time around, and this is a standard format for this kind of procedure and has been in the Cranston Public School both for the superintendent interviews and all certified staff and administrators. There is a list of questions that are pre-screened to

avoid repetition and, as Mrs. Ciarlo had indicated, to make sure there is a wide representation of questions asked. This is not unusual or unprecedented.

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Mr. Traficante indicated that he was unable to attend this particular meeting. He further indicated that Mr. Lupino had asked the committee to submit three questions to him. Mr. Archetto stated that the committee should not discuss the particulars in public; it was an executive session matter. Mr. Traficante then stated that the chair had asked that the committee submit X number of questions to him. Mr. Lupino responded that the reason for submitting the questions was to particularly avoid repetition of questions. Mr. Traficante then commented that from the certain amount of questions Mr. Lupino was going to select a limited amount of questions from those submitted, and Mr. Lupino commented that Mr. Traficante was correct. Mr. Traficante remarked that this would give the committee the opportunity to compare apples to apples asking the same questions of all three candidates which is very important. He further indicated that he was not saying that the committee members couldn't ask additional questions, but they have to make sure they ask the basic questions to each and every candidate that they have submitted. It would be very difficult to compare apples to apples if they don't do that.

Mrs. Ciarlo told the committee that they should be sure to write down what their expectations are of what their answers should be. A screening committee can ask questions, but they have to be prepared for the answers they are looking for. It is important as the committee deliberates to know the questions and what they are looking for in terms of the answers.

Mr. Stycos stated that the committee would submit the questions and then they will ask their own questions. They are submitting three questions; there may be duplicates, but no one will be selecting what question a member asks. Mr. Traficante commented that he was happy to see that the committee would be asking the same questions of each of the three candidates that they submit. Mr. Stycos stated that this is not what the committee agreed to. Mr. Traficante indicated to Mr. Stycos that he assumed that if he submitted four, five or six questions, he would want to ask those questions of each candidate. Mr. Stycos stated that he was incorrect. Mr. Traficante asked how the committee could compare apples to apples if they are not consistent with their questions. Mr. Stycos responded that the candidates are different, so he would want to ask candidates questions that go back to their backgrounds and go back to their experience. Mr. Traficante felt that there should be a core of questions that the committee should ask of each candidate to make that comparison and to make it fair. Mr. Lupino commented that several of the members who have submitted questions have submitted almost the identical questions.

With a couple of word changes, the crux of the question would not create any complications. Mr. Stycos suggested that the committee meet a few minutes before the first interview so that they could look at the questions to make any necessary adjustments.

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VII. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

There were no students who wished to speak on agenda or non-agenda items.

There were no members of the public who wished to speak on agenda items.

VIII. Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda

NO. 05-11-4 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Barbara Daluz Elementary

**Mary Thake Secondary/Middle School
Mathematics/Science**

Patricia Gorman General Subject Matter

Daniel Lareau Physical Education

Taylor Temple Music, K-12

Craig Ross Speech Pathologist, K-12

Patricia Hennessey Elementary

**Michael Iannone Secondary Business/Middle
School Science**

Marjorie Poor Speech Pathologist

NO. 05-11-5 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be reappointed as athletic coaches:

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL EAST

Paul Giarrusso Assistant Boys' Wrestling

Christopher Tribelli Head Boys' Wrestling

Robert Bouchard Head Boys'/Girls' Swimming

Robert La Banca Head Girls' Indoor Track

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Cranston East Continued

Carl Bishop Head Boys' Indoor Track

Joseph Splendorio Head Freshman Boys' Basketball

Richard Harris Head Boys' Basketball

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST

Wayne Lindberg Assistant Boys' Hockey

Sheila Lagasse Head Girls' Indoor Track

Gina Bailey Assistant Girls' Indoor Track

James Moretti Head Boys' Basketball

Matthew Claeson Head Boys' Wrestling

Craig Sacco Head Boys' Hockey

Gerard Marzilli Freshman Boys' Basketball

NO. 05-11-6 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach be accepted:

Richard Glover, Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball

Cranston High School West

Effective Date: October 26, 2005

NO. 05-11-7 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee be recalled from layoff:

Kimberly Gallo, Project Opportunity Facilitator

Alternate Education Program

Effective Date of Employment: September 19, 2005

NO. 05-11-8 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Donald Pontarelli, Five-hour Custodian

Plant

Effective Date of Employment: November 15, 2005

Fiscal Note: 11647481-518200

Ann Pilderian, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: November 14, 2005

Fiscal Note: 32447179-511000

Salvador Saban, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: November 15, 2005

Fiscal Note: 14347543-517200

Nancy Weiner, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: October 31, 2005

Fiscal Note: 31647179-511000

Sherry Robitaille, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: November 2, 2005

Fiscal Note: 32347179-511000

Donna Rachels, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: November 7, 2005

Fiscal Note: 31347179-511000

Roberto Julio, Four-hour Custodian

Plant

Effective Date of Employment: November 15, 2005

Fiscal Note: 12747481 518200

NO. 05-11-9 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Karen Walsh

Dina Martino

Sheila Matarese

Dawne Ciambrone

CUSTODIANS

Charles Moreau

John McHugh

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NO. 05-11-10 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Frank Mendella, Custodian

Transportation

Effective Date: November 4, 2005

NO. 05-11-11 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignations of the following non-certified

personnel be accepted:

Paul Desvergues, Technology Facilitator

Technology Services

Effective Date: November 4, 2005

Kimberly Iannucci, Teacher Assistant

Oak Lawn School

Effective Date: November 3, 2005

Diana Kohler, Teacher Assistant

Eden Park School

December 2, 2005

Arlene Bilodeau, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date: October 18, 2005

Donna Giarrusso, Bus Aide

Transportation

Effective Date: November 7, 2005

David White, Custodian

Plant

Effective Date: November 10, 2005

**Louis Bianco, Custodian
Plant
December 2, 2005**

**Bethany Gervais, Three-hour Food Service Worker
Food Service
Effective Date: October 21, 2005**

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**Kellie Wallace, Three-hour Food Service Worker
Food Service
Effective Date: November 2, 2005**

NO. 05-11-14 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:

Natural Gas for the period from November 1, 2005 through October 31, 2006 from Select Energy. This is the one year extended option from last year's resolution. This is a cooperative purchase with the State of Rhode Island through its Division of Purchases. Eighteen buildings will be served under this contract. Basis/ transportation pricing has been secured at \$2.96 / Dth for the winter (November through March) and \$3.946 Dth for the summer (April through October). The NYMEX commodity price will be

determined at a later date in accordance with the State of Rhode Island Purchasing Department.

Diplomas for the 3 year period (graduating classes 2006 – 2008) in the total amount of \$10,389.60

Number of bids issued 2

Number of bids received 2

NO. 05-11-15- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

Howard T. Chun, science teacher at Cranston High School East, to travel to Washington, DC, to attend a conference for the American Astronomical Society from January 8, 2006 to January 12, 2006.

Natalie L. Urban, teacher at Cranston High School West, and approximately nineteen students to travel to Italy from April 14, 2006 to April 23, 2006.

Mark Colozzi, Program Supervisor of Music and Co-Director of Bands, Gregory Arsenault, Co-Director of Bands at Cranston High School East, and approximately 100 students from Cranston High School East Band and Emerald Encore to travel to Williamsburg, Virginia to perform at the Williamsburg Music Festival from April 6, 2006 through

April 10, 2006.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that these Resolutions be adopted.

VIII. Action Calendar/Action Agenda

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SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATION

NO. 05-11-2– Whereas, Diana Petrosinelli, an English teacher at Cranston High School East, is one of two Rhode Island secondary school teachers to receive the 2005-2006 National Educator Award from the Milken Family Foundation, and

Whereas, each recipient receives an unrestricted \$25,000 financial award, and

Whereas, each year the Milken Family Foundation picks the nation's top teachers from a list compiled by in-state committees and recognizes teachers who inspire students, exhibit talent and have an outstanding record, and

Whereas, Diana has been an English teacher in grades 9 through 11

at Cranston High School East for the past five years and previously taught at Woonsocket High School, and

Whereas, Diana, in addition to being an Aspiring Principal in the Principal Residency Network where she has been identified as a talented leader, she is also co-chairperson of the Cranston High East School Improvement Team,

Be it RESOLVED that Diana Petrosinelli be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for her hard work and dedication and for the honor she has brought to Cranston Public Schools, and

Be it further RESOLVED that Diana receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Mr. Traficante and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that this Resolution is honoring Diana Petrosinelli who is an English teacher at Cranston High School East. She is both a scholar and just a wonderful human being at Cranston High School East. Her work and her scholarship have been recognized in that she was designated as one of the Milken Family Foundation winners for this year. That means that they pick only the top teachers from a list compiled by in-state committees. It recognizes teachers who inspire students, exhibit talent, and have an outstanding record. Diana fits

all of these very much so, and Cranston Public Schools is so very proud to have a Milken winner and for Diana to be that person. Mrs. Ciarlo congratulated Diana.

Mrs. Greifer read the Resolution and presented it to Diana. A photograph was taken.

Ms. Petrosinelli thanked the committee for the opportunity to work for Cranston Public Schools and secondly to have her ideas heard and listened to. She also thanked the committee for their resolution.

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This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 05-11-3 - Whereas, there may be opportunities for savings through energy conservation for both the City of Cranston and the Cranston Public Schools, and

Whereas, the City of Cranston is seeking consolidation measures with the Cranston Public Schools,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee request that this matter be discussed jointly with the Cranston City Council for future consideration no later than January 18, 2006, and

Be it further RESOLVED, that in a spirit of cooperation, a joint energy audit be performed for the benefit of the City of Cranston and Cranston Public Schools.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.

Ms. Iannazzi stated that she had a problem with this Resolution as it is currently written. She felt that it was a little too vague.

Ms. Iannazzi moved to amend the third paragraph of this Resolution as follows: Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee request that this matter be discussed jointly with the Cranston City Council as a part of the Consolidation Committee chaired by Council member Fogarty for future consideration no later than December 12, 2005.

Mr. Traficante seconded the motion.

Mrs. Greifer asked Ms. Iannazzi why she had chosen the date of December 12th. Ms. Iannazzi responded that in order to get as much budget savings as they can this fiscal year, the committee needs to get it moving.

Mr. Traficante commented that as a member of the Consolidation

Committee, he had no problem with the resolution. He was concerned with the date because of the holiday season. He didn't know if the Council would have enough time to debate and discuss it at one of their regular meetings because if they don't come with the committee in this partnership then it is advisable that the committee go alone because it is very important. Ms. Iannazzi responded that she spoke with Councilwoman Fogarty, and she indicated that she had no problem with it. Mrs. Greifer added that the next scheduled meeting of the Consolidation Committee is tomorrow. She also noted that it is the first meeting. Mr. Lupino added that it is the first meeting in which proper notice was given. They did have another meeting.

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Mr. Stycos stated that the last time the committee discussed this they talked about approaching the Mayor's office with the general idea of doing it together. He asked what happened with that idea. In response, Mrs. Ciarlo remarked that administration thought it would be appropriate since they are talking about it together that they do it through the Consolidation Committee, and so they opted to go through the Consolidation Committee which comprises both administration, City Council, and members on it. They didn't ask just one part alone.

Mr. Stycos proposed a friendly amendment to Ms. Iannazzi's

amendment. Mr. Lupino commented that the committee had to vote on Ms. Iannazzi's amendment first. Ms. Iannazzi indicated that she had no objection to Mr. Stycos's friendly amendment.

Mr. Stycos proposed that a sentence be included stating: Be it further RESOLVED that it is the desire of the Cranston School Committee to have an energy conservation program.

Ms. Iannazzi accepted this as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Lupino stated that the committee has been dealing with this issue for a long time. This is the third different School Committee he has been on that has brought this up. It is about time that the committee got going on this. If it were done with the first committee, the district would be realizing savings already. Through legal advice, that is why the committee had to join with the city because the committee would have done it already. Because of the nature of some of the capital improvements that would have to come through city funding, they were told that the committee had to join in with the city. It is going to a Consolidation Committee because their members had brought this up at some School Buildings Committee meetings. In addition, it is a forum for someone from the Mayor's office who is on the committee also.

Mr. Stycos explained that the committee doesn't need an audit; they need an energy conservation program. If the committee comes back

that all of the buildings are going to be audited, that would be a failure. The committee needs to have a program that will save energy. That program might start with some kind of audit, but the committee needs to move ahead. As Mr. Lupino said, the committee has been beating this to death for five years, and nothing has happened. The committee needs to have something happen.

Mr. Archetto asked if the committee were going to take the amendments separately or combined, and Mr. Lupino responded that the committee is taking Mr. Stycos's as a friendly amendment and adding it to Ms. Iannazzi's amendment. There is one amendment with an addition from Mr. Stycos on the floor.

This amendment including the friendly amendment were adopted unanimously.

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This Resolution as amended was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution now reads:

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 05-11-3 - Whereas, there may be opportunities for savings through energy conservation for both the City of Cranston and the Cranston Public Schools, and

Whereas, the City of Cranston is seeking consolidation measures with the Cranston Public Schools,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee request that this matter be discussed jointly with the Cranston City Council as a part of the Consolidation Committee chaired by Council member Fogarty for future consideration no later than December 12, 2005.

Be it further RESOLVED, that in a spirit of cooperation, a joint energy audit be performed for the benefit of the City of Cranston and Cranston Public Schools, and

Be it further RESOLVED that it is the desire of the Cranston School Committee to have an energy conservation program.

NO. 05-11-12 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee A be accepted.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that this Resolution be tabled to the next meeting.

NO. 05-11-13 - RESOLVED, that the first budget revision be approved as recommended by the Superintendent.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this

Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos referred to the revenue page of the budget revision. He indicated that this shows that there was a \$450,000 surplus last year. Mr. Balducci responded that it was not from last year. This is carried over from 03-04. There was approximately \$650,000 that was unspent. Unfortunately, in 04-05 approximately \$200,000 was needed to balance the budget so there still remains approximately \$450,000 that is available to be used in subsequent years. Unfortunately, as tight as the budget is this year, he recommended that the \$450,000 balance be used this year to balance this year's budget. Mr. Stycos commented that for the year just finished in June, there was a \$450,000 surplus that could have been spent last year. Mr. Balducci responded that there was \$650,000 that could have been spent last year. Because of some overages

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in certain areas of the budget, he had to dip into that reserve approximately \$250,000. Mr. Stycos asked why the committee was never told that. Mr. Balducci responded that it was identified during the budget revision process last year. Mr. Stycos remarked that there were proposals by members of this committee to restore a middle school sports program which cost \$97,000; there was a proposal to hire a part-time auditor which was costed at \$15,000 to \$20,000; and there was a proposal to hire an additional truant officer in the \$10,000

range. Each time those proposals came forward, the committee was told that the budget was really tight, and they didn't have any money. To then end the year with a \$450,000 surplus says to him that the committee could have done all those things despite the fact that administration was telling the committee that they could do none of them. Mr. Balducci asked Mr. Stycos if he were speaking about last year, and Mr. Stycos said that he was talking about 04-05. Mr. Balducci stated for the record that they did not have a surplus of \$450,000. This was monies that they were able to set aside in reserve for future use. Mr. Stycos stated that they had the money last year. Mr. Balducci responded that it is the equivalent of the city having what they refer to as a rainy day fund. Mr. Stycos responded that no one said to the committee when those proposals came forward that there was a rainy day fund, and it could be taken out of that if they wanted to. Mr. Balducci indicated that there were more pressing issues that administration had to deal with last year, health in particular. Mr. Stycos said that there was \$450,000 after the committee dealt with the pressing issues. Mr. Balducci responded that after they dealt with the overages in some account, there was still \$450,000 available. Mr. Stycos stated that the committee should have been told about that money. Mr. Balducci stated for the record that this was identified during the budget revision process to him and every other member on this committee last year. Mr. Stycos stated that he has expressed his thoughts on this and the whole budget process. He further commented that he keeps a fairly good eye on the budget. Mr. Balducci said to Mr. Stycos that he would be glad to

share with him the documents that he presented to this committee the last fiscal year that identified the \$650,000. Mr. Stycos said that no one said that when the committee was discussing those things. Everyone said that the district had no money; the special education tuitions were going up, and there were many costs. No one said that there might be money over here, and no one said that they should save it just in case. It was always that there wasn't any money.

Mr. Traficante indicated that the 2003-2004 budget was audited, and at that time it was revealed that there was a \$650,000 carryover, and Mr. Balducci said that Mr. Traficante was correct. Mr. Traficante questioned if it was revealed in the audit report that was given to the previous School Committee, and Mr. Balducci said he was correct. Mr. Traficante said that there have been four or five budget revisions since that time, and he asked if it was indicated also in those budget revisions. Mr. Balducci said that he couldn't recall which budget revision last year, but it was in one of the budget revisions.

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Mr. Stycos referred to page 73 of the budget revision. Under the administrative medical insurance revision, it is proposing a \$1.7 million addition to the medical insurance account. He asked if that then would bring the medical insurance account to the level that the

district is estimating will have to pay for claims in administration. Mr. Balducci responded that, unfortunately, it still runs \$200,000 to \$300,000 shy based on current year projections where he will end up at the end of the year. However, one thing that has not been identified yet because as part of negotiations they were able to negotiate plan changes, but the plan changes are not kicking in until January. As he starts receiving the claims for the months of January and February, he is hoping that his projection comes a little closer because right now the only piece he has been able to identify is the cost sharing that was negotiated and was taken into effect. Part of the other negotiated process is the plan changes. Those won't be realized until January. As someone goes to the doctor, their co-pay will increase in January which means that when he pays a claim, that additional cost by the employee will reduce his obligation. He won't know how much it will reduce his obligation because that process won't begin until January. As it stands right now, it is somewhere between \$200,000 to \$300,000 short. Mr. Stycos indicated to Mr. Balducci that he estimated what those plan changes would save, and Mr. Balducci responded that it all depends on how many times a certain individual goes to the doctor and how many times that person will go to the pharmacy. It is a best guess. Mr. Stycos then indicated that the \$16 million number is \$200,000 to \$300,000 short, but it does not in any way take into account the plan changes, and Mr. Balducci said that it didn't.

Mr. Stycos again referred to page 73, director of library media

salaries. He noted that the committee voted on the \$10,000 during the budget process. He asked if that money was provided by a grant as it had been in the previous two years that this money would go to additional library books divided among the system schools. He knew that from talking with the Superintendent the district did get that grant. He asked why that money hasn't been re-allocated to the library textbook account. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that she didn't want to do anything until after this budget revision to see exactly where the district stood. She will sit down to see what they can do and how they will go about doing it.

Mr. Stycos referred to the proposal that administration had made to the committee for the midlevel management or CAMS group which is a 25% pay raise over three years which the committee has not ratified. He stated that those figures were in this budget revision. He asked if that was an indication that those pay raises were more important than library books. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that all are important; one will not supersede the other. Mr. Stycos indicated that the committee voted to put that money into library books, and administration has not moved it. The committee has not voted for the 25% raises, but yet those are in the revision. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that she has not operated on that either. Just tonight the committee and administration are discussing the budget revision. After the budget revision is complete, they will look at the commitments made to people, but Mr. Stycos has to understand that while they are

talking about library books, they are also talking about other areas where they don't have to take anything into consideration. Administration will report back to the committee a recommendation as to how they will handle this. She further commented that she is very interested in library books, especially library books at the elementary and middle school levels. She has not been able to buy reading books this year to teach kids so that they are able to go to the libraries. She will follow up on what she said. Mr. Stycos said that the key difference is that this committee voted to use that \$10,000 for library books, and to him that is the difference. The committee made that decision, and that needs to be implemented ahead of everything else that the committee has not decided.

Mr. Stycos asked what the projection was in this document for increased energy costs. Mr. Balducci responded that with regard to the executive summary section of this document he has not begun to look at this area of the budget yet. For those buildings that are using No. 2 heating oil, the district's practice is that prior to the fiscal year being over, they completely fill the tanks at all the schools. They are using last year's allocation still. He has not begun to receive this year's bills yet. That is one of the main focuses of the second revision. This one is salaries and related benefits, and the second revision is when he begins to process the utilities. Everyone knows that it will be an area of concern.

Mr. Stycos referred to the second page of the executive summary, special education tuitions. He indicated that the district over-estimated what the special education tuitions were going to be by \$700,000. He asked how the district missed by that much. Mr. Balducci responded that if a student were placed in an outside placement the last fiscal year in January, it would be a six-month cost from January to June. Administration assumed that this same student would re-enroll in the outside placement for the balance of this fiscal year. He was happy to say that it didn't happen. The student could have moved out of the district or the student could have been enrolled in this school system, and those are costs he would not have to absorb. He also factored in the unknowns, students who are currently in the system that for one reason or another has to be placed in an outside placement. There would be a family moving into the city where the student is coming from Providence and already involved in an outside placement. The district didn't miss the mark, but certain things changed that they were able to save \$700,000 in that area.

Mr. Traficante thanked Mr. Balducci for basically finding increased revenues and reducing the expenditures so that they could come close to balancing this budget. There is a \$300,000 short fall at the present time, and it has to be made up in the changes to the health care plan, claims, substitute teachers, and special education. These are the areas the committee has to watch very carefully to make up

that \$300,000 so that they will end the year in the black. Mr. Balducci referred to the revenue page and indicated that it does identify \$1 million coming over from the city.

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That is very important to making this work between now and the end of the fiscal year. He doesn't want anyone to be disillusioned that they are able to do this just by looking at some expenditure accounts and shifting dollars from one area to the next. It does identify \$1 million coming over from the City of Cranston. Without that \$1 million, the district will be in a difficult position to close this fiscal year in the black.

Mr. Lupino referred to the special education tuitions and asked Mr. Laliberte what the most expensive individual placement was that the district is currently paying for. Mr. Laliberte stated that the district has one that is currently out of state, and he believed the tuition is \$185,000. Mr. Balducci further explained that there is one student attending the Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts. This is tuition for one year. There is the potential for the district to get most of that money back. He does petition the state, but that is not a guarantee that the district will receive it back. This year it could be \$150,000. The worst case scenario would be that the district would not get it back. Mr. Lupino pointed out that four or five children with those similar needs such as someone who needs very heavy medical

needs while they are being educated this \$700,000 is not much of a cushion or a savings or an identified addition to the budget. The district could very easily be \$700,000 the other way with some more placements coming in. No one knows what it will be. Mr. Laliberte added that the district never knows what it might be. The district may be running ahead at the moment, but they don't know which children will be moving into the district. They can save some money because they won't be putting in for the entire year, but most of the students in outside placements range anywhere from \$35,000 to \$65,000 a year to place them. If they move into this city, the school district owns that obligation.

Mrs. Greifer asked approximately how many outside placements the district has, and Mr. Scaffardi responded that there are over forty at the present time. Mr. Traficante reminded the committee that it is not only special education situations but also students who attend other charter schools which is another expense on the district's back. There is a variety of outside placements for special education. Mr. Lupino pointed out that if it were the charter school, they could identify what that scenario might be because this district would pay half of that district's tuition. With special education placements and medical needs, it is a very nebulous figure.

Mr. Stycos stated that he would like to urge people to vote against this budget revision because it has in it some incredibly large raises for the middle management of the school department. Perhaps the

most notable one is on page 75 of the booklet for the Director of Human Resources, which is not Mr. Votto but his assistant. That salary would increase \$12,597 in the next year. As the administration has said, incorporated in this budget document, are raises for the CAMS group, the middle management group, over a three-year period which average 25%. This is just too much. As he has said before, his son is in high school and has an advanced chemistry book that is a 1994 book. He has a physics book that is a 1995 book. He has a history book that is a

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1980's book. The committee can't get another \$10,000 into the library apparently even though they voted to do that. This budget revision has these outrageous raises. It is too much. They have to balance the need to give people raises with the needs in the classroom. This doesn't do it. What this does is it goes all the way over to throwing away thousands of dollars. Over the three-year period. this agreement would cost the district about ¼ million dollars just for twenty-seven management people, and that is just too much money. The committee should vote against this, go back to the drawing board, and come up with a fair management pay system.

Mr. Traficante asked Mr. Balducci which contracts the committee had not settled yet but are included in this budget. Mr. Balducci responded they were the secretaries, custodians, technical

assistants, and the CAMS group. Food Service has not been settled, but that group is outside this budget. Mr. Traficante indicated to Mr. Stycos that if this were the case, the committee should eliminate all possible potential contracts that are listed in this budget. Not only CAMS but all of them should be eliminated. The committee has not completed negotiations with this particular group, therefore, if Mr. Stycos wanted to eliminate the potential raises for CAMS, then the committee should eliminate the potential raises for the other four groups as well. Mr. Stycos responded that when Mr. Traficante and Mr. Palumbo were on the budget sub-committee and they put in numbers for raises for employees, until there is a change, the committee should stick with those numbers. Mr. Traficante said that he was asking Mr. Balducci to take out the potential raises for CAMS, then the committee should do likewise for the other four negotiating groups because they are all in the same situation. Mr. Stycos responded that if Mr. Balducci has put in more than a 3% raise, then he should eliminate them. The original budget proposal called for a 3% raise across the board. Until there is an agreement, that is what should be in the budget. When the agreement comes forward, the committee needs to be told that this is so much more or some much less than is in the budget. The committee can then determine whether that agreement makes sense or not. Mr. Traficante said that potentially there is more than a 3% possibility in the other four groups as well when the fact is included that the committee was looking for X amount of percentage with regard to health benefits. If they didn't receive that percentage, then that amount goes above the

3% problem. If he is asking for one, then the committee should do all.

Mr. Stycos commented that the only ones he was aware of that were above the original numbers was the CAMS group. If there is more money in here for the other groups, then that should come out too, and that is another reason to vote against it tonight and rework it. Mr. Traficante cited the example that if the committee were looking for a 10% co-share from a particular group, and they did not receive that 10% co-share with the smaller groups, then the committee's prediction is going to cost more dollars in that particular contract. That may occur in four other contracts, so, therefore, if the committee is going to eliminate or talk about one particular group, then the committee should talk about all five groups simultaneously that are unsettled. Mr. Stycos responded that he agreed with Mr. Traficante.

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Mrs. Greifer referred to the item mentioned by Mr. Stycos on page 75 of the budget revision, she noted the statement, "re-appropriation based on the last year/contractual." She asked Mr. Balducci to explain this statement. Mr. Balducci explained that last year during the budget revision process there were three adjustments that were identified in one of the revisions. It may have been in the first revision last year. The committee made a decision not to accept those revisions. This was one of the positions. Unfortunately, the first revision of this budget uses the base line for the following year, so last year during 04-05 in the first revision this position was not

adjusted. When one looks at budget to budget, it was actually lower than what it should have been. It was fixed during the year because on a subsequent revision the adjustment was placed in front of the committee, and it was voted to be accepted. However, it was after the first budget revision, and that is the one used when comparing budget to budget. It does look like a larger than normal increase, but in pure dollars, it does reflect what that position is going to be paid for this year or proposed to be compensated because the committee has not completed the contract.

Ms. Iannazzi stated that she would not be supporting the budget revision. She too thinks that the CAMS agreement is egregious and more work has to be done. She would like to see the true contract stage reflected in this budget. Furthermore, she has mentioned it before that the entire position referred to is not necessary, and that should be another focus of the joint committee of the Council and the School Committee.

Mr. Archetto stated that he saw the administration as being very imprudent. The committee is treading on dangerous ground here especially when they are mandating raises without a guarantee that the committee will get the \$1 million from the Council and the Mayor's office. The committee is treading on dangerous grounds proposing these raises.

Mr. Traficante told the committee that three or four months ago they

all agreed, and not one person on the committee, didn't agree with the fact that the \$1 million was crucially important to this budget. The committee received very favorable reaction from the City Council. He believes they are people of integrity. He believes they will carry it out to the nth degree. They are finally doing it in the right way. When he had mentioned it earlier, appropriating something that is anticipated, is not the way to go. They should have budgeted out of the current surplus and basically replace it with the anticipated surplus. They are doing it the right way now because the Mayor has to identify the direction of the \$2.6 or \$2.7 million. He has to do it within the next several weeks if he is going to balance his budget because he has additional funds from the state. Once he does that, it goes back to the City Council, and at that point in time, they certainly have the right to alter those recommendations. The committee all agreed that the \$115 million budget that was narrowed down because of the Council's appropriation that \$1 million that the committee anticipated from the City Council was crucially important not only with contracts but also in a variety of other areas from personnel right down to

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materials and supplies. The committee has to keep hope that they will get that money because it is crucial to this particular budget, and it is crucial to the kids' education.

Mr. Archetto asked Mr. Traficante if it made sense to propose salary

increases when the money isn't in the budget revision. Mr. Traficante responded that if the committee is going to eliminate one, they should eliminate all of them until they negotiate and finalize the contracts. The committee should not give up on this \$1 million because it is crucial to this budget, and it is crucial to the education of Cranston.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that she felt very badly that people are discussing a group before the School Committee in Executive Session has had an opportunity to do that. This particular group works very hard. They keep our buses running; they run our food service; they run our plant; they run the business end of the operation; and to arbitrarily say that a position isn't needed when not having been there, one doesn't know what the responsibilities are, she felt was not a prudent response to be given at this point. That individual, among other things, is responsible for all the secretaries, teacher assistants, bus aides, which is a healthy number. All of them work very hard, and administration made sure that whatever the increase over what they had budgeted for the increases that they took two positions that they dried up, took care of what they did for CASA, and took care of what they did for CAMS. To single out a particular group that very often many of them have two or three titles they operate under, she felt it was foolish at this time. The more one says "I wonder and what if we don't" gives food to people who think it isn't needed because they are planning what to do if they don't get it. If the district doesn't get it, they will end up in some form of court because there is no way to get

through this year without that \$1 million regardless of what the committee does.

Mr. Traficante strongly suggested at this point that the committee take a fifteen-minute recess to allow Mr. Balducci to adjust and amend this particular proposal before the committee this evening to eliminate the potential increases that have been proposed in this current revision of the four or five associations/unions that are basically included in this particular budget so that the committee can get this revision out of the way this evening. When Mr. Balducci comes back with the second revision, the committee can include in the second revision the actual negotiated figures that the committee approved. Mr. Balducci stated that he agreed with Mr. Traficante. He further commented that it was important that this revision pass this evening. This revision is used as the base line for the building of next year's budget which begins tomorrow. If this document were passed this evening, his office would start the process of sending out the budget documents to the individual departments. To wait one month, it would be impossible to meet the deadline for the superintendent to present the budget to the committee. He will make every attempt to come up with a figure based on the groups that have not been settled yet. He suggested putting it in the health account since it would be identifiable. As they go through the process and finish negotiations, changes

could be made in the second revision. He will make every attempt to give the committee a figure so that this revision could be passed this evening.

Mr. Traficante moved to take a fifteen-minute recess.

Ms. Iannazzi stated that she objected. She stated that she was personally opposed to any fifteen-minute recesses. This has been used as a tactic in the past to call the seventh member of the School Committee to come and pass a tie-breaking vote. Mr. Traficante asked Ms. Iannazzi if she would like to hold his phone. He stated that he was not calling anyone. Mr. Traficante further stated that it was 8:00 p.m., and the committee had plenty of time to get a fifteen-minute recess. He didn't plan on calling Mr. Palumbo for any such tactics.

Mr. Stycos stated that he also opposed this motion. With the administration's ability to build a budget, they can build it in any manner that they see fit. If they want to build a budget using these numbers or a different set of numbers, that is fine; but the committee doesn't have to vote on this tonight in order for them to build a budget.

Mrs. Greifer seconded Mr. Traficante's motion.

This motion ended in a tie vote with Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Lupino and Mr. Traficante in favor; Mr. Archetto, Ms. Iannazzi, and Mr. Stycos were opposed.

Mr. Lupino stated that this tie vote does not die under the new rulings. Mr. Iannazzi stated that a tie vote tables the motion.

Mr. Traficante remarked that if the objection to the revision is the inclusion of pay raises for groups the committee has not completed in negotiations, then why not complete it tonight and get it done. Mr. Stycos responded that this should be done in a careful manner, and it should be double checked. It should not be done in a five or ten minute slap job. Mr. Traficante responded that he didn't care if it took 1-1/2 hours. Mr. Stycos stated that there is no big rush on this. He felt it should be done carefully. Mr. Traficante commented that he was sure that Mr. Balducci knew exactly what he budgeted for salary increases for those five non-negotiated groups. He knows exactly what he put in for the health care plan percentage wise.

Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mr. Balducci what he was most comfortable with because people would remember his number as being in cement. Mr. Stycos stated that this motion was defeated; it did not pass. He did not want to cut off anyone's right to speak on whether or not this should be passed, and he would like to move the question. He would withdraw it if anyone else wanted to speak for or against this. Mr. Lupino indicated to Mr. Stycos that he made a comment based on

what he assumed this revision would be, so the committee is making an attempt to follow that obligation and

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have Mr. Balducci do that. Whether the committee recesses while he does it or sits here while he does it, doesn't matter.

Ms. Iannazzi suggested that the committee has a number of meetings coming up, and this could be discussed either before or after one of those meetings. Mr. Balducci indicated that he would appreciate the extra time. Mr. Lupino commented that the committee is meeting on November 21st. He would like an executive session and a public session. This meeting could start at 5:00 p.m. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the time for this meeting to take place.

Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mr. Archetto to move the question.

Mr. Stycos stated that there would be two votes; the first would be whether or not to move the question. The second vote would be on the budget revision.

The motion to move the question was defeated unanimously.

Ms. Iannazzi moved to table this Resolution to the November 21st

meeting.

Mrs. Greifer and Mr. Traficante seconded the motion.

Ms. Iannazzi moved to amend her motion to table this Resolution with the understanding that Mr. Balducci will revise the budget revision to bear the true contract stage. Mr. Lupino requested Ms. Iannazzi to table this Resolution to a specific date. Ms. Iannazzi stated that it would be tabled to November 21st at 5:00 p.m. in the Briggs Building.

This motion to table this Resolution to November 21st at 5:00 p.m. was adopted unanimously.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items

Doreen Archetto, 78 Sheffield Road – Mrs. Archetto stated that she is a building aide in the City of Cranston for the school department, and this is the second year of a layoff for her. She asked if the status of the layoffs had changed. She noticed that many of

the aides had been cut from the buildings, and she realized that the budget is a big problem. The committee also has to realize the safety of the kids in the schools. With kids in the lunch rooms and at recess, it is a lot of responsibility for one building aide in many of the schools. She is concerned as a layoff for one building aide in each school with 220 kids. There are still many aides on layoff. She asked the definition of non-certified personnel. Mr. Votto responded that teacher assistants fall into the non-certified personnel. It is those employees who do not have a certificate such as a principal or a teacher. They are broken out by non-certified by state regulations who have certification purposes to be hired versus non-certified which include teacher assistants, technical assistants, custodians, and bus drivers. Mr. Lupino noted to Mrs. Archetto that he receives at least ten requests a week for aides.

X. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Lupino noted that a work session would take place on Wednesday, November 16th, at 7:00 p.m. It has been changed from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. On November 21st, a meeting will take place at

5:00 p.m. in the Briggs Buildings.

XI. Adjournment

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the committee reconvene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(1) personnel and RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(2) contract and litigation.

This portion of the public meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Lupino reconvened public session at 9:03 p.m.

Mr. Traficante was not present for this portion of public session.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the November 14, 2005 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

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Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Archetto and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

**There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was
adjourned at
9:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Anthony J. Lupino
Clerk**